

AUG 1 8 1958

A7166

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — APPENDIX

August 19

Since pistols and revolvers make up the vast majority of weapons capable of being concealed on the person and, since for good and sufficient reasons the Congress felt that pistols and revolvers should not be included in the Machinegun Act, it would seem just and equitable that the full \$200 transfer tax not be applied to the very small minority of concealable weapons which may be interpreted to be neither a pistol nor a revolver. To the contrary, it would appear that the purpose of the act would be better served by a nominal tax on this category of weapon which would permit them to be possessed and traded by gun collectors while retaining the records and controls now maintained by the Department of the Treasury under the National Firearms Act.

Experience through the years has demonstrated that the type of concealable weapon controlled under the National Firearms Act which has most frequently figured as a crime problem is the weapon that is made from a rifle or shotgun by cutting it down in length so as to make it concealable on the person. Under the present law, if a rifle or shotgun is altered by cutting off the barrels so that the barrel length is less than that prescribed in the definition of a "firearm," then the weapon clearly becomes subject to the criminal provisions of the law. In many cases, however, the criminal not only cuts off the barrel of a conventional rifle or shotgun but also may cut off the shoulder stock and thus create a one-hand weapon of greater concealability than had he sawed off the barrel alone. In the past, criminals apprehended with such weapons attempted to avoid prosecution on the ground that the weapon they created by cutting off the barrel and the stock of a shotgun or a rifle was in fact a pistol since it was a one-hand weapon. In the view that it was just this type of criminal weapon that Congress sought to control in the National Firearms Act, I am suggesting an amendment to the definition of the term "firearm" by adding the language, "or any weapon made from a rifle or shotgun—whether by alteration, modification, or otherwise—if such weapon as modified has an overall length of less than 26 inches."

The National Firearms Act provides for an annual \$200 tax for persons engaged in the business of dealing in machineguns and those categories of weapons defined as "firearms." At present the payment of this occupational tax may be prorated on a monthly basis established on the fiscal year. It has been called to my attention that certain persons other than bona fide dealers have been able to take advantage of this provision to avoid the payment of the transfer tax on machineguns by paying the dealers' occupational tax for 1 month only. A person engaged in the business of dealing in machineguns and who has qualified for and paid the occupational tax provided for in the law is permitted an exemption from the transfer tax. As the law now stands, a man may qualify as a machinegun dealer in June by paying only one-twelfth of the normal \$200 dealers oc-

cupational tax. He may then purchase machineguns without paying the \$200 transfer tax and, at the end of June, may simply elect not to renew his dealer's status by paying his occupational tax for the following year. It is one of the purposes of my bill to remove the pro rata feature with respect to the occupational tax so that a person qualifying as a dealer, engaged in the business of dealing in machineguns, will pay the \$200 occupational tax for a year or fraction thereof.

Another weakness in the present language of the law has been that the transferor alone has been responsible for the transfer tax on machineguns. If, through false pretenses, an individual not actually a bona fide dealer has been able to secure a machinegun transfer tax exempt, the Government has no recourse since no liability for the tax rested on the transferee. The purpose of my bill is to correct this by providing that, if a firearm is transferred without payment of the transfer tax, the transferor and transferee shall become jointly and severally liable for the tax.

The amendments I suggest will improve the enforcement of the National Firearms Act with respect to machineguns and sawed-off shotguns and will at the same time, alleviate some of the inequities that plague gun collectors and shooter-sportsmen without contributing to the effectiveness of the law.

Visit of Premier Khrushchev to the United States

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

HON. THOMAS J. DODD

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES
Wednesday, August 19, 1959

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, a few days ago I received a letter from the Mayor of Bristol, Conn., the Honorable James P. Casey, a letter which was characterized in the Connecticut press as an attempt to dissuade me from my opposition to the visit of Nikita Khrushchev to this country.

Mayor Casey's letter is an illustrative example of the widespread misunderstanding of the position of those who oppose this visit, and it is representative of what I consider to be the confused thinking of many well-meaning and influential Americans.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Mayor Casey's letter and my reply be printed in the appendix of the Record.

There being no objection, the letters were ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

CITY OF BRISTOL,
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR,
Bristol, Conn., August 11, 1958.

The Honorable THOMAS J. DODD,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

MY DEAR TOM: Remember when Harry Truman in 1948 was counted out by the political

wiseacres and Tom Dewey enshrined in the White House even before voters went to the polls? In a "give 'em hell" campaign the former President got up off the deck and proceeded to knock the stuffing out of Dewey with a total disregard for the Marquis of Queensbury rules.

It was a grand, rough and tumble brawl. The American people responded with cheers and huzzahs for the little guy who took on the Republican behemoth, then Governor of New York State. As I recall, you were the only politician in Connecticut who gave Truman a chance in the election, and, in fact, seconded his nomination at Philadelphia. The rest of the Connecticut delegation floundered around ready to throw its support to any one but the man who made it—even to one man named Dwight David Eisenhower.

It seems to me that, lacking a crystal ball, no one can predict the results of Nikita Khrushchev's grand tour of the United States. The Communists after 40 years of intensive propaganda, brainwashing, and wholesale butchery have failed conspicuously to convert the people in the satellite countries to the joys to be had in the workers paradise.

Consequently, I don't think that at this point the American people are going to be infected by the Communist virus if Nikita in the Kremlin shows his face in America. A look at the greatness, the power and the glory of the United States and a realization of the spiritual forces which inspire men and women here may deter him from throwing his Sunday punch. After all, a talkathon between President Eisenhower and the Russian Premier is preferable to extermination by a hydrogen bomb.

This brings us to Dick Nixon and the union of the United States and Poland, and Lord knows how many more of the enslaved peoples of Europe and Asia. Nixon took on Khrushchev in the latter's own back yard, on the home grounds so to speak, not in a contest of haughty words and stinging phrases, with 8,000 miles separating the combatants. Nixon slugged it out toe-to-toe with Nikita, and the "you-don't-know-everything" resort was a crack heard round the world.

Nixon's tumultuous reception in Poland was also a startling revelation. Americans have always felt confident and sure that, in an abstract way, the people in that benighted country were on our side. The instant, spontaneous expression of love and friendship, in the face of their oppressors, I believe, however, to be unprecedented in the whole history of mankind. The Poles love the United States and its people. They want to identify themselves with us and this in defiance of the Kremlin gangsters. Nixon was a symbol of America and, while it truthfully may be said that any other man, officially representing the United States as Vice President, would have been received in like manner, the fact is that it was he who brought it off.

Poland, like Ireland during the massacres in the mid-17th century, has through history suffered one terrifying blood bath after another and, in each instance, has emerged more than ever determined to fight for a freedom that is so essential to man's salvation.

In the Warsaw demonstration there has been unveiled a secret weapon on the Communist front that scientific research or inventiveness can neither create nor destroy; namely, the spiritual fire which consumes a devout people in its fight for peace, freedom and justice. It is as though the old and neglected Christian virtues had taken on new life and vigor in an age wherein materialistic values have seemed to be transcendent.

Americans cannot help but rejoice with the Polish people in their collective, bulldog resistance to the power and barbaric tyranny of the Communists. Newsmen with Nixon